GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5565
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2002
MISMANAGEMENT OF COMMERCIAL TIME BY DOORDARSHAN
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of serious deficiencies brought out during test audit in acquisition of telecast rights, marketing arrangements, accounting and billing of commercial time, tariff setting and revenue sharing;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to attend to such glaring deficiencies and avoid a huge revenue loss to the exchequer;

(c) whether Sports Marketing Consortium set up in 1998 was a flawed arrangement in as much as it failed to safeguard the interest of Doordarshan;

(d) whether the arrangement entailed a loss of Rs. 140.88 crore due to underselling of commercial time, loss of opportunity cost, non-recovery of dues, manipulation in acquisition of rights and payment of inadmissible refund;

(e) if so, the steps taken to fix responsibility for such grave loss to Doordarshan along with the names of guilty persons involved therein; and

(f) the ways the Government proposed to make up such a huge loss and to avoid such losses in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (f): The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in its Report for the year ended March 2000, Union Government (Civil) (Transaction Audit Observation-No. 2 of 2001) has pointed out certain irregularities in the commercial transactions of Doordarshan in which it has entailed a loss of Rs. 140.88 crores. The Public Accounts Committee has taken up the above Para of the C&AG Report for detailed examination. Some of the commercial transactions reflected in the C&AG Report are under investigation by CBI. Appropriate action as per laid down procedure will be taken against officers found guilty.